

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Organizations and Newspapers in the Ho Chi Minh-
Controlled Zones of Vietnam

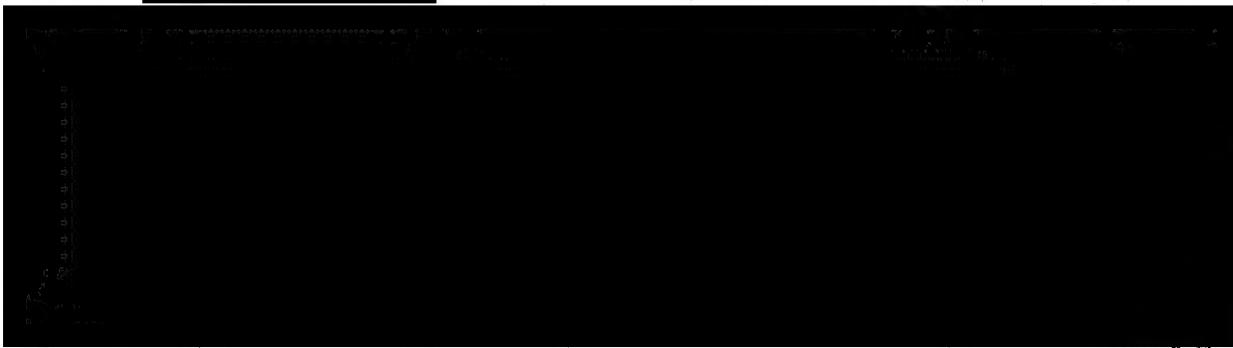
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INFO.

The following list of political and semi-political organizations and newspapers in the Ho Chi Minh-controlled zones of Vietnam has been compiled from overt sources and is disseminated as a general summary of their history from the founding of the Viet Minh in 1941 to its merger with the Lien Viet in early 1951.

ORGANIZATIONS1. The Viet Minh League.

Founded in 1941 by the Communist Party of Indochina (PCI) as a broad-based militant nationalist movement and comprising workers', youth, peasants' and women's National Salvation Associations which were formed simultaneously.

The Viet Minh was not only a political but a military organization and the members of the Union of Youth for National Salvation formed the first unit of what was later to be the Viet Minh National Army. In 1949 Viet Minh propaganda began to urge that the Viet Minh League should be merged with the Lien Viet and by the end of 1950 this process was completed on the lower levels while at the top the joint Viet Minh-Lien Viet Committee had been formed. The Viet Minh was finally merged with the Lien Viet in February 1951 and the League as a separate body disappeared.

June 1950: Chairman Ho Chi Minh

Secretary General Hoang Quoc Viet, aka Ha Ba Trung

Membership 3,000,000

Journal Cuu Quoc

2. Vietnam Federation of Labor or Tong Lien Doan Lao Dong (TLD).

Founded with the Viet Minh as the Vietnam Workers for National Salvation in 1941.

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June 1946: Its right to become affiliated to the WFTU acknowledged.

July 1946: Became Vietnam Federation of Labor.

1 January 1949: Became affiliated to the WFTU.

July 1949: Represented at Milan Congress of the WFTU.

November 1949: Represented at Peiping Congress of the WFTU.

December 1950: First National Congress of the TLD at which the following program was laid down:

- a. The working class of Vietnam is fighting for national independence, democracy and peace.
- b. The Vietnam workers will further a powerful Trade Union organization.
- c. Modification of Trade Union regulations.
- d. Vietnam workers will build up a new Democratic economy.
- e. Vietnam workers will endeavor to raise the material and cultural standard of the working class.
- f. Vietnam workers will boost up the patriotic emulation movement, which includes a nation-wide production drive and a constant effort at self-improvement from all points of view.

The Conference also elected a new Executive Committee, the Standing Committee of which consisted of:

Chairman	Hoang Quoc Viet
Secretary General	Tran Danh Tuyen
Assistant Secretaries-General	Nguyen Hun Mai Tran Quoc Phao Hoang Hun Dong Nguyen Cong Hoa Bui Thai Duong

Nguyen Duy Tinh has apparently been elected since to the Standing Committee.

1950: Membership 500,000

Journal: Lao Dong

3. Union of Vietnamese Youth.

Founded in 1941 with the Viet Minh as Youth Fighting for National Salvation, with the special task of spreading propaganda on behalf of the Viet Minh. Its first military propaganda unit composed of 43 members was formed under Vo Nguyen Giap. Later this unit became the first unit of the Vietnam Liberation Army.

July 1947: Became affiliated to the WFDY.

February 1948: Represented at the Calcutta Youth Congress.

August 1949: Represented at the Congress of Working Youth at Warsaw.

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September 1949: Represented at the WFDY Congress, Budapest.

October 1949: Represented on the Executive Committee of the WFDY.

February 1950: First National Youth Conference at which the name Union of Youth for National Salvation was changed to The Vietnamese Youth Federation. The Conference was addressed by Vo Nguyen Giap and Truong Chinh and the obligation of members to learn the theories of Peoples' Democracy and of Marxism-Leninism was stressed. The present Standing Committee of the Executive Committee was elected and consists of:

Chairman	Nguyen Chi Thanh (head of the Political Department of the Army)
Secretary General	Hoang Minh Chinh
Assistant Secretaries General	Ngo Bich San Nguyen Xuan Tranh Nguyen Lam

August 1950: Hoang Minh Chinh headed the Youth Delegation to Prague Congress of the IUS.

1950: Membership 2,500,000 of which 500,000 are said to be in the Armed Forces.

4. Union of Vietnamese Students and Pupils.

Founded in August 1948 as the Union of Vietnamese Students and affiliated to the IUS, as well as to the Union of Vietnamese Youth.

August 1949: Represented at the Budapest Congress of the IUS.

August 1950: Represented at the Prague Congress of the IUS.

1950: Became the Union of Vietnamese Students and Pupils.

Chairman: Nguyen Thuong

5. Union of Vietnamese Women.

Founded 20 October 1945 within the Viet Minh as the Vietnamese Women's National Salvation Association and affiliated to WIDF.

Represented at the WIDF Congress at Budapest in December 1948, at Paris in July 1949 and at Peking in December 1949.

April 1950: First National Congress attended by nearly 300 delegates and at which President Ho Chi Minh was present.

President	Madame Le Thi Kuyen
Membership	3,000,000
Journal	Phuno

6. Vietnam Peasants Association for National Salvation.

Founded within the Viet Minh in 1941.

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January 1950: Sent a message of solidarity to the Chinese Peasants' Association.

Secretary General Ho Viet Thang

Assistant Secretary General Nguyen Viet Thai

7. Democratic Party of Vietnam (Dan Chu Dang).

Founded in 1944 by the PCI to attract intellectuals. Its program was frankly Marxist and Leninist.

March 1950: Second National Convention.

July 1950: Celebrated its sixth anniversary and adopted the following motto:

"Intellectuals to participate in every branch of activity to serve the people".

It was claimed that the Party was reeducating the intelligentsia and the petty bourgeoisie

1950: Secretary General Duong Duc Mien

Membership 120,000

Journal Doc Lap (Independence)

8. Association for the Study of Marxism.

Founded probably at the same time as the Viet Minh League as a Marxist elite which would preserve the purity of the doctrine and form the chief instrument for its propagation. According to Lee Figueres who visited the Viet Minh in 1950 it wielded deep influence in nearly all factories, districts, army units and government services.

November 1950: Tran Van Giau represented the Association at a public meeting of the Vietnam - Soviet Friendship Association.

1951: Chairman Dang Xuan Khu, aka Truong Chinh

Journal Su That (Truth)

9. Socialist Party.

Founded in 1946 with a program based on the theories of Marx, Lenin and Stalin.

1950: Secretary General Phan Tung Hien

Journal Tien Lien (Forward)

10. Catholic Association for National Salvation.

Founded in 1945 by the Viet Minh to win over the Catholic population of Vietnam to the Viet Minh cause. It is still probably not without influence in Viet Minh affairs.

Chairman Vu Dinh Tung

Secretary General ? Vu Xuan Ky

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11. Twelve Unified Cao Dai Sects.

When the Caodists went over to Bao Dai in 1947 a section under Cao Trieu Phat, known as the 12 Unified Sects, remained loyal to Ho Chi Minh.

March 1951: Cao Trieu Phat was elected one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Lien Viet Front.

12. Lien Viet (National Union)

Founded in May 1946 by the Viet Minh as a National Front organization to which all political parties in Viet Minh territory belonged.

President Ho Chi Minh

Vice-Chairman Ton Duc Thang

August 1949: It was announced that the Viet Minh would ultimately be merged with the Lien Viet.

June 1950: The Lien Viet and the Viet Minh in Intersector IV (North Annam) were merged to form the Vietnam National United Front (Lien Viet).

July 1950: The newspapers of the Viet Minh and the Lien Viet merged.

November 1950: Joint Committee of the Lien Viet and Viet Minh set up on which Ton Duc Thang represented the Lien Viet and Hoang Quoc Viet the Viet Minh.

March 1951: The process of merging the Viet Minh with the Lien Viet was completed at a congress held between 6 and 15 March.

Ho Chi Minh remained Honorary Chairman.

A National Lien Viet Committee of 54 members was elected:

Chairman Ton Duc Thang, Acting Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

Vice Chairman Madame Le Thi Xuyen, President of the Vietnam Women's Federation, member of the Standing Committee of the Vietnam National Assembly and Vice President of the Vietnam Committee to the World Peace Congress.

Dr. Le Dinh Tham, President of the Vietnam Committee to the World Peace Congress.

Cao Trieu Phat, delegate of 12 Unified Cao Dai Sects of South Vietnam.

Hoang Quoc Viet, Chairman of the Vietnam TUC, formerly General Secretary of the Viet Minh Steering Committee.

Duong Duc Hien, Secretary General of the Vietnam Democratic Party, and member of the National Assembly.

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Hoang Minh Giam, member of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Socialist Party, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The National Lien Viet Committee in its turn elected a Standing Committee composed of 17 members, among whom were:

Truong Chinh, Secretary General of the Vietnam Laodong Party.

Tran Dan Tuyen, Secretary General of the Vietnam TUC.

Ho Viet Thang, Secretary General of the Vietnam Peasants' Association for National Salvation.

Hoang Minh Chinh, Secretary General of the Union of Vietnamese Youth.

Xuan Thuy, Chairman of the Vietnam Journalists' Association and Director of Cuu Quoc.

Thai I Thanh, writer-director of the Arts and Culture Section of the Vietnam Education Ministry.

Tran Cung, former member of the inspection group of the Viet Minh Steering Committee.

Le Thanh Lap, former Secretary General of the Lien Viet Central Committee.

Phan Anh, Lawyer, Minister of Economy.

1950: Membership was given as 10,000,000, of which 8,000,000 belonged to the Viet Minh.

Journal: Cuu Quoc.

13. Vietnam Cultural Association.

Founded probably in 1949.

Secretary General Ho Hai Thanh

Standing Committee includes Tran Huy Lieu

Nothing more is known about this Association except that the President sent a telegram acclaiming the Students' demonstration in Saigon on 19 March 1950.

14. Association of Vietnamese Journalists.

Founded April 1950.

Its first aim was to "take part in building a people's democratic regime."

Executive Committee Chairman Xuan Thuy, Director of Cuu Quoc

Vice Chairmen Do Duc Due
Hoang Tung

Secretary Nguyen Thanh Le

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August 1950: Became a member of the World Federation of Journalists.

August 1950: President of the Association sent message of protest to the French Government on the arrest of Leo Figueres.

September 1950: Represented at the Third Congress of the World Federation of Journalists held at Helsinki.

15. Sino-Vietnamese Friendship Association.

Founded February 1950 to promote friendship and a feeling of solidarity between Vietnam and China, to keep the Vietnamese people informed of cultural, social and political developments in China and to explain to the Chinese people the evolution of the situation in Vietnam.

The Foundation Committee included the following:

Ho Tung Mau, Inspector General of the Ho Chi Minh Government.

Le Dinh Tam

Hoang Quoc Viet

Father Pham Ba Truc

General Vo Nguyen Giap

Vuong Kiem Toi, Director General of Education

Chairman of the Provisional Committee Ho Tung Mau
(pending election of a Central Committee)

Vice Chairman

Tran Huy Lieu, ex-Minister of Propaganda, a member of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly and a member of the PCI.

Journal

China - Vietnam

16. Soviet - Vietnamese Friendship Association.

Founded in May 1950 to promote closer friendship and relations between the peoples of Vietnam and the Soviet Union in the political, economic, social and cultural fields.

Foundation Committee included:

Vo Nguyen Giap

Ho Tung Mau, Inspector General of the Ho Chi Minh Government.

Tran Van Giau, Director General of Information.

Truong Chinh, Chairman of the Association for the Study of Marxism (PCI)

Tran Dinh Tuyen, Secretary General of the TLD.

Madame Le Thi Xuyen, President of the Women's Association

Ho Viet Thang, Secretary General of the Peasants' Association.

Duong Duc Hien, Secretary General of the Democratic Party.

Ton Duc Thang, Acting Chairman of the Standing Committee of Vietnam National Assembly.

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June 1950: Message of solidarity sent to the Supreme Soviet from the President of the Association, Ton Duc Thang.

17. Vietnam National Committee of Partisans of Peace.

Inaugurated in June 1950 after a joint session of the Central Executive Committee of the Lien Viet and the Viet Minh in May. The Association of Peace Fighters was founded at the same time.

Chairman Ton Duc Thang

Vice Chairman Le Dinh Tham

An appeal for signatures was launched under the auspices of the TLD, the Vietnam Women's Association, the Union of Vietnamese Youth and the Vietnam Peasants' Association.

October 1950: 3,871,298 signatures claimed.

November 1950: Over 5,000,000 signatures claimed.

November 1950: Peace Conference held under Presidency of Ton Duc Thang. Delegates attended from the Lien Viet, the TLD, the Women's Association, Youth Federation, Peasants' Association, Journalists' Association, Marxist Association, Democratic Party, Socialist Party, Catholic Association, "Buddhists", Cambodia and Laos.

A Peace Committee was elected consisting of the following:

President Le Dinh Tam

Vice Presidents Ta Quang Buu
Madame Le Thi Xuyen

Secretary General Duong Bach Mai, aka Bourov

November 1950: Vietnamese delegates attended the Peace Conference at Sheffield and Warsaw.

18. Laodong (Workers') Party.

Founded on 19 February 1951.

According to the Party's Manifesto:

"The Vietnam Laodong Party comes into being at a time when the whole Vietnamese people are longing for a Vanguard Party, a General Staff, a powerful, clear-sighted and genuinely revolutionary political Party, in order to lead the Resistance in the preparation for a general counter-offensive and in the launching of a victorious general counteroffensive.

"As the policy of the Party is to work for the interests of the country and people, to place the interests of the country and people above all, and as it embraces the most determined and model citizens of the Resistance, the Vietnam Laodong Party is the most patriotic Party, the Party of the workers and toiling masses, and also the Party of the people. Its leader is also the leader of the people, our beloved President, Ho Chi Minh.

"The newly-born Vietnam Laodong Party consequently takes its responsibility before the people and history: to lead the Resistance to victory and national reconstruction to success, and to make Vietnam an independent, free, democratic and prosperous country. The Vietnamese people as a whole are confident that the Vietnam Laodong Party is endowed with necessary qualities and abilities, with enough determination and clear-sightedness,

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and that it has the sincere support of every Vietnamese citizen so as to fulfill its leading role.

"The theory of the Party is the Marxist-Leninist theory.

"The principle of organization of the Party is democratic centralism.

"The discipline of the Party is a strict self-convincing discipline."

The leaders of the Party are as follows:

President Ho Chi Minh

Secretary General Truong Chinh

Members of Committee Hoang Quoc Viet
Vo Nguyen Giap
Pham Van Dong

Journal Thanh Danh (The People)

19. Neolao Issara.

"National Liberation Front of Laos" founded in August 1950 to work for the independence of Laos in cooperation with the Viet Minh and the Democratic Peoples of the World.

November 1950: At a conference at which representatives from the Lien Viet and the "National United Fronts" of Laos and Cambodia were present it was decided that a Joint National United Front should be set up and a Preparatory Committee was elected.

March 1951: At the Lien Viet Congress for the merging of the Viet Minh it was indicated by President Ho Chi Minh that the "National Fronts" of Laos and Cambodia had been united with the Lien Viet. Nevertheless, neither the Chairman of the United Front of Laos, Prince Souphanouvong nor his Cambodian colleague Son Ngoc Minh was elected Vice Chairman or even to the Standing Committee.

20. United Issarak Front or Mouta Seiha.

Founded after a Congress of Cambodian resistance leaders in April 1950 with the object of obtaining Cambodian independence in cooperation with the Viet Minh.

Its relations with the Viet Minh have followed the same course as that of Neolao Issara (see 19). Its President, Son Ngoc Minh, was not present at the March Congress of the Lien Viet, and was represented by Chang Smay, the Vice President of the Front.

NEWSPAPERS

Cuu Quoc (National Salvation) Viet Minh
Lien Viet

Director Xuan Thuy

Editor Ngyen Thanh Le

Su That (Truth) Association for the Study of Marxism

Doc Lap (Independence) Democratic Party

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China-Vietnam

Sino-Vietnamese Friendship Association

Editors Ly Dan Dao
Vu Van Trang
Nguyen Khanh Toan
Ho Tung Mau

Tien Lien (Forward)

Socialist Party

Phumo

Vietnamese Women's Association

Tin Tue

Vietnam News Agency

Laodong (The Worker)

Vietnam Federation of Trades Unions

Nhan Danh (The People)

Laodong Party.

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